

Letters to the editor

Volunteers wanted for stress research

In a letter to the editor, Katherine Crea, Research Assistant, Australian Psychological Society, writes, "Our National Psychology Week survey of the public has been finalised and we are now beginning data collection — ahead of schedule!"

She directs readers to a Microsoft Word version of the survey for review by the RSL National Veterans' Affairs Committee. The link to the electronic survey is:

<http://www.mysurveyportal.com/psychology/qedml/login.php?SURVEY=npw08>

She goes on, "Please note that data collection will take place via the online survey only," and adds that the participant information sheet is accessible to participants by clicking the "Information sheet" button on top of the survey web page.

Editor's Note: The Information Sheet follows:

SURVEY: Dealing with irritating events and situations

You are being invited to participate in a research project being conducted by Prof. Mary Katsikitis of the University of the Sunshine Coast, and Dr. Helen Lindner and Dr. Rebecca Mathews of the Australian Psychological Society.

The aim of the research is to explore the daily events and situations that people find irritating and which can lead to irritable and aggressive behaviour (eg, waiting in queues, traffic, dealing with automated voice-response systems), how people respond in these situations and the strategies that people use to help manage these events and situations and reduce stress.

Should you volunteer to participate you will be asked to complete a 10- to 15-minute online survey at a time that is convenient for you. It is anticipated that there will be no risk, discomfort or distress associated with completion of this survey. However, if you are distressed as a result of completing the survey, please contact Dr Rebecca Mathews or Dr Helen Lindner, who are registered psychologists, on 03 8662 3300 or 1800 333 497.

Your say wanted on cadets

An independent review team has been formed to conduct a review of the Australian Defence Force Cadet Scheme.

This review was announced by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly AM, on June 6.

The scheme comprises the Australian Navy Cadets, Australian Army Cadets and the Australian Air Force Cadets. ADF Cadets is a youth development program run by Defence in conjunction with the community and caters for young people aged 12½ to 20 years.

The review panel's over-all charter is to identify what the objectives of the ADF Cadet scheme should be, along with community expectations about accountability and transparency in its administration.

The review panel is now seeking public submissions as part of its community consultation program.

NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK
9-15 November

2008
Think well. Be well.

Please select from the list of common irritating events and situations, all those that you consider to be a hassle in your day to day living.

Choose ALL that apply:

Transport
heavy traffic conditions
inconsiderate/bad drivers
lack of available public transport
crowded public transport
unreliable public transport
'hoon' driving behaviour
car breaking down
road rage behaviour

cost of parking
lack of parking
having to get petrol
customer service
unfriendly staff
having to wait in line
unnecessary forms
telemarketing calls
people late for appointments
public spaces
cigarette butts
bad language
violence
graffiti
cigarette smoke
barking dogs

The heading on the Society's web site survey link and some of the topics from which volunteers can select their pet hates.

To protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent, there is no request for your name on the survey.

In the analysis of the data and preparation of any report or publication of the research there will be no identifying information that would connect you with your responses. The data will be kept securely at the Australian Psychological Society National Office (Melbourne) for five years from the date of publication of any results before being destroyed. Results of the research will be available from November 2008 on the web site of the Australian Psychological Society www.psychology.org.au under the National Psychology Week link.

Please be advised that your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Everyone who completes the survey can independently submit his/her name and contact details for inclusion in a draw for one of two iPod Nanos. An email address link will be available at the end of the survey by which you can provide your name and contact details for entry into the draw. This email is in no way linked with submission of your survey responses.

Your contact details will be used only for the purpose of the draw and will be deleted within 2 weeks of the draw, which will occur in National Psychology Week on 10 November 2008. If you would like to participate, please complete the questionnaire by following the link below.

If you require any more information or have any concerns please contact Prof Katsikitis on 07 5456 5034, or Dr Lindner or Dr Mathews at the Australian Psychological Society on (03) 8662 3300.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of the project, contact Dr Mark Sayers, Professor of Psychology, University of the Sunshine Coast by phone on 07 5459 4703 or email at msayers@usc.edu.au

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Australian War Memorial, London, 'unrecognised'

Sir — I believe that many of our readers will be interested in the situation besetting the Australian War Memorial, at Hyde Park Corner, London. The problem is one of recognition.

Thousands of people a day pass the memorial but only a handful know what it is. Some progress has been made recently as the word "Australia" in large bronze letters has been added to the rear wall of the memorial, facing the road.

The front of the memorial has Australian battles in large letters clearly displayed. The name of many towns in Australia is etched on the green marble front wall. As most of the battles are also British battles this does not help recognition. The only word "Australia" alongside the words "United Kingdom" is located below the coat of arms in small lettering at knee height, as shown in the photo.

This impressive memorial is so low-key that it is in danger of sinking without trace from the tourist consciousness. The office of Australian War Graves, DVA, is aware of this problem but no solution has yet been found. Action is needed to have the word "Australia" of suitable size located on the front of the memorial.

From the perspective of awareness of the general public and thousands of tourists of the Australian achievement and burden in war, the memorial can only be classed as a failure.

Mr James Cullens MBE
President

ACT schools among ANZAC project winners

Stromlo High School and Curtin Primary School won \$1000 each for their entries in ANZAC Day Schools' Awards.

They were among 18 schools that shared in the \$22,000 prize money, WA's Rosalie Primary School winning the National Primary School award and SA's Eudunda Area School the National Secondary School award.

Rosalie Primary School students researched the experience of Australian soldiers who fought along the Kokoda Track.

As part of their study, students completed a trek on a recreated Kokoda Track in King's Park, Perth. They also organised a dawn service attended by more than 800 people.

Eudunda Area School students researched the war records of 27 World War I soldiers commemorated on the Eudunda Memorial. After piecing together information on a chosen soldier, students produced the Eudunda's Lost Sons booklet, which raised funds for the Eudunda RSL.

For more information on the awards visit www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/education/AD_schools_awards/index.htm



Mr Peter John KELLY OAM

It is with deep regret that we report the death of

Mr Peter John Kelly OAM

on 20 August 2008 in Canberra.

Peter's longstanding and tireless commitment to and efforts for the Ex-Service community have been acknowledged by Members of the League and the Veteran Community.

We offer our sincere condolences to his family.

President and Members

Of the Returned Services League of Australia ACT Branch Inc

Lest We Forget